

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BRASIL 02517 311959Z
ACTION SS-25

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FM AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 834

C O N F I D E N T I A L BRASILIA 2517

EXDIS

DEPARTMENT PLEASE PASS TREASURY

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: EFIN, ETRD, BR
SUBJ: SIMONSEN VISIT TO WASHINGTON

REF. (A) BRASILIA 0901, (B) BRASILIA 0980, (C) STATE 40413
(D) STATE 49708, (E) STATE 56317, (F) BRASILIA 2031

1. SUMMARY. THIS MESSAGE SETS FORTH EMBASSY'S ASSESSMENT
ON DESIRABILITY OF WHITE HOUSE CALL AND MEETING WITH SECRE-
TARY OF STATE FOR FINANCE MINISTER SIMONSEN APRIL 6. END
SUMMARY:

2. EMBASSY HAS FURTHER REVIEWED DESIRABILITY OF PRESIDENT
RECEIVING FINANCE MINISTER SIMONSEN FOR BRIEF COURTESY
VISIT ON APRIL 6 (REFTEL A). AS WASHINGTON IS AWARE, WE
HAD THOUGHT THIS A GOOD MOVE IN THE CONTEXT OF US-BRAZILIAN
RELATIONS AND THE DESIRABILITY OF ENHANCING THE POLITICAL
STATURE OF SIMONSEN, A VOICE FOR MODERATION AND CONCILIATORY
POLICIES, WITH THE GOB. THE POSSIBILITY THAT FOREIGN
MINISTER SILVEIRA MIGHT BE IRRITATED BY THIS, DID NOT
OVERLY CONCERN US, AND SEEMED TO US AN ACCEPTABLE COST.
THE CALL COULD BE READILY EXPLAINED BY SIMONSEN BEING
THE FIRST BRAZILIAN CABINET OFFICER TO VISIT WASHING-
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CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 BRASIL 02517 311959Z

TON SINCE PRESIDENT CARTER TOOK OFFICE.

2. IN VIEW OF LIKELY POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS IN BRAZIL
WITHIN THE NEXT WEEVSOR SO, WE NOW HAVE CONSIDERABLE
RESERVATIONS ABOUT SUCH A MOVE, AND RECOMMEND THAT
THE IDEA OF A WHITE HOUSE CALL BE DROPPED. ALTHOUGH
THE SEVERITY OF THE MEASURES IS NOT YET CLEAR, IT

IS EVIDENT THAT THE SERIES OF INTERNAL HARDLINE MEASURES NOW IN PROSPECT WOULD, BY THEIR VERY NATURE, HAVE SOME INTERNATIONAL REPERCUSSIONS. WE DO NOT BELIEVE THE PRESIDENT SHOULD BE PERSONALLY ASSOCIATED WITH MOVES SIGNALING A DESIRE FOR INCREASED RAPPORT WITH THE GOB DURING SUCH A PERIOD.

3. WITH RESPECT TO CONTACTS AT THE STATE DEPARTMENT, WE DO HOPE, HOWEVER, THAT THE SECRETARY COULD RECEIVE SIMONSEN AT LEAST BRIEFLY AND THAT, IF THIS IS NOT POSSIBLE, A MEETING WITH THE DEPUTY SECRETARY COULD BE ARRANGED. WE ASSUME THAT UNDER SECRETARY COOPER WILL PARTICIPATE IN SECRETARY BLUMENTHAL'S LUNCHEON MEETING. IF THIS SHOULD NOT BE THE CASE, SIMONSEN SHOULD HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO MEET UNDER SECRETARY COOPER AT THE DEPARTMENT.

6. COMMENT. WE HAVE EVERY REASON TO BELIEVE THAT PRESIDENT GEISEL IS FULLY INFORMED OF SIMONSEN'S PLANS, WE WOULD BE SURPRISED IF SILVEIRA WERE NOT. WITH RESPECT TO THE FOREIGN MINISTRY, DORNELLES HAD TOLD THE FINANCIAL ATTACHE (REFTEL B) THAT SIMONSEN'S LETTER PROPOSING A PERSONAL MEETING TO BLUMENTAL HAD BEEN CLEARED BY SILVEIRA AND THE PRESIDENT. WE ALSO HAVE DIRECT EVIDENCE THAT DORNELLES HAS KEPT THE FOREIGN MINISTRY (CABRAL DE MELLO) FULLY INFORMED ABOUT HIS MEETING WITH ASSISTANT SECRETARY BERGSTEN, NOW DIRECTLY PRECEDING THE SIMONSEN VISIT, AND FROM THIS WOULD INFER THAT HE HAS BRIEFED THE FOREIGN
CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 BRASIL 02517 311959Z

MINISTRY ALSO ABOUT THE SIMONSEN VISIT.
CRIMMINS

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED TREASURY.

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